
Medication Reference:

Activated Charcoal

Class

Adsorbent

Actions

Absorbs poisons in the stomach, prevents absorption by the body and enhances their elimination from the body

Indications

Activated charcoal should be used for the patient who has ingested poisons by mouth



Contraindications

- Altered Mental Status
- Has swallowed acids or alkalis
- Is unable to swallow

Precautions

- Do not give the patient milk, ice cream or sherbet, as they decrease the effectiveness of the charcoal

Adverse Reactions

- Blackening of the stools
- Vomiting

Adult Dosage / Route

Administer 1-2 g/kg (typically 25-50 grams)



Pediatric Dosage / Route

Administer 1-2 g/kg (typically 12.5-25 grams)



Note Well: *The current trend in management of toxicological emergencies is to use activated charcoal without ipecac*

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